



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON DC 20310

JUL 26 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR PRINCIPAL OFFICIALS OF HEADQUARTERS,  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

SUBJECT: Election Year Guidance and Contacts with Members of Congress

As we approach the final months of the 2004 election season, I want to ensure that you are aware of, and comply with, Department of Defense and Army election year policy. As a matter of long-standing policy, the Army does not engage in activities that associate the Army with partisan political causes or candidates.

Installation commanders will not permit the use of installation facilities by any candidate for political campaign or election events. Candidates are encouraged and welcomed to receive briefings, tours, or other official DoD information. Requests from Members of Congress to visit an installation should be referred to the Office of the Chief Legislative Liaison. Candidates who are not Members of Congress should be given the same access to installations as any other unofficial visitor. Installation commanders will ensure that candidates who visit military installations to conduct official business do not engage in political campaign or election activity during the visit.

Candidates will not be allowed to film or tape campaign commercials in front of military equipment, while on Army installations and facilities. Installation commanders will decline requests for Army speakers to appear in political campaign or election events. Requests for information from political campaign organizations will be considered on the same basis as requests from the general public.

Army newspapers, periodicals, and civilian enterprise publications will not publish information provided by a candidate's campaign organization, partisan advertisements and discussions, or cartoons, editorials, and commentaries dealing with political campaigns, candidates, or issues. American Forces Radio and Television Service will provide a free flow of balanced, informational coverage of political campaigns and elections provided by U.S. commercial and public networks.

I encourage all military members and employees to vote. I expect all Army leaders to fully support the Voting Assistance Program.